

THE MAINE REPORT

Will not Reach the President Before Thursday.
WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC
Until he Has Given it Proper Consideration
WHICH MAY BE MONDAY NEXT.

Or, Tuesday at the latest—Substance of the Report will be Transmitted to Spain at the Same Time It is Sent to Congress by the President's Message, and a Prompt Reply will be Expected From That Government—Spain, It is Said, Will Ultimately be Compelled to Solve the Cuban Problem or Take the Consequences of Intervention on the Part of the United States.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The cabinet session to-day was even shorter than usual. All of the members arrived promptly at 11 o'clock but before noon the secretary of state and the secretary of the navy had left for their respective departments and the other members followed soon after.
THE STATEMENT WAS AGAIN MADE BY SEVERAL MEMBERS THAT IT WAS NOT EXPECTED THAT THE MAINE REPORT WOULD REACH HERE BEFORE SOME TIME NEXT THURSDAY, AND THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY THE PRESIDENT WOULD REQUIRE UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MONDAY AT LEAST TO GIVE IT PROPER CONSIDERATION. It therefore may be expected that on Monday or Tuesday at the latest the report, which is said to be very voluminous, will be transmitted to congress together with a message from the President indicating that its substance had been communicated to the Spanish government through Minister Woodford at Madrid, and further that he had indicated that this government would expect a prompt reply to the findings of the court. This will be substantially the course pursued in case the report shows that the disaster came from outside causes.

While no one having a knowledge of the matter is able or willing to speak for the President, it is believed that a question of arbitration in connection with the disaster to the Maine is no longer under consideration. The recent speech of Senator Proctor seems to have cleared the minds of the members of the administration as to the real conditions in Cuba and it is now believed that the disaster to the Maine will be treated only as an incident to the main question. It is asserted that the two are so intimately connected that one necessarily involves the other, and it is believed to be the President's purpose to bring about, in whatever action he may now take, a settlement of the whole Cuban question. Whether this involves a war with Spain it is believed rests entirely with Spain herself. PERSONS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE THAT SPAIN WILL ULTIMATELY BE COMPELLED TO SOLVE THE CUBAN QUESTION HERSELF AND TO THE ENTIRE SATISFACTION OF THIS GOVERNMENT, OR TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES OF INTERVENTION.

While the cabinet associates of the President maintained their usual reserve as to the exact character of their deliberations, yet it was conceded that the discussion proceeded on the theory that the COMING REPORT WOULD SHOW THE MAINE EXPLOSION WAS NOT THE RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT, BUT WAS DUE TO AN EXTERNAL CAUSE. There is no doubt that substantial unanimity exists on the part of the President and all his cabinet both as to the Maine question and the general subject of Cuba.
The possibility of a recourse to intervention in case Spain declined to make a suitable response to the representations we will make after receiving the Maine report, has been fully discussed, although necessarily it has been an abstract discussion thus far and no conclusion has been reached, or is possible until the vital question as to the court's findings are before the President and cabinet.

It is believed to be the intention of the President to bring about a very material and satisfactory condition in Cuba by what shall seem to be the best and most practicable method of obtaining this end. It is the hope of the administration that Spain herself will so far realize the situation as to see the necessity for such radical action on her part with respect to Cuba as shall command the approbation of this country and thus at once put an end to all differences.

Outside of the cabinet meeting the day was exceptionally quiet. Secretary Long was able to clear his desk at 3:30 o'clock for the first time since the Maine disaster occurred and he left the department before office hours closed, to enjoy a walk.

During the afternoon the bureau of navigation posted the notice that the battleship Massachusetts had sailed from Key West for Hampton Roads following the Texas, which left yesterday. The cruiser Brooklyn is at Newport News and the monitor Puritan is under orders to proceed there, so that these vessels will be near the Hampton Roads rendezvous if it is determined to establish the squadron there.
The navy department continues to keep informed as to the Spanish torpedo flotilla now stopping at the Canaries. It can be stated positively that the report that President McKinley has protested against the coming of this flotilla is unwarranted. There has been no such protest.
Serious attention is being given by the navy department officials to the question of the acquisition of a suitable location for a coaling station somewhere in the West Indies.

THE COURT OF INQUIRY

Has Finished Its Work—Report Now on the Way to Washington.
NEW YORK, March 22.—The Mail and Express prints to-day a special dispatch from its correspondent at Key West, Fla., in which are the following statements:
"THE REPORT OF THE MAINE BOARD OF INQUIRY WILL START

FOR WASHINGTON AT 4 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON IN CHARGE OF JUDGE ADVOCATE MARIX. IT SHOULD REACH THERE SOME TIME THURSDAY EVENING.

"One of the officers will always be on watch while the report is en route to Washington. The same precaution will be maintained as on shipboard, one always remaining awake. All will be armed.
"The report of the court in possession of Lieut. Wm. C. P. Muir and guarded by Orderly McCauley, was at 8:45 o'clock this morning put ashore from the Detroit, where it spent the night for safe keeping, and was carried directly to the hotel at Key West for the final approval of Admiral Sigsbee, who, having created the court, has a right to review the evidence.
"The session at the hotel lasted some time. The judge advocate, who stayed ashore last night for the first time in a month, went over the findings with Admiral Sigsbee. The latter signed the report at 9:50 o'clock. It is now ready for the trip to Washington via Miami and Jacksonville."

KEY WEST, Fla., March 22.—Lieut. Commander Marix, judge advocate of the United States naval court of inquiry into the loss of the battleship Maine, left Key West this afternoon on the way to Washington by the City of Key West bound for Miami, taking with him the report of the court on the disaster.
Commander Marix brought the report ashore from the Nashville to-day and Rear Admiral Sigsbee with Commander Marix spent several hours in its further revision.

All the officers of the Maine here have received orders to leave for their homes, there to await orders as in the case of other officers who left here last week. This is considered to be evidence that the court will not require the corroboration of technical evidence as was thought a few days ago. The majority of the officers of the Maine left here this afternoon for home and the remainder of them leave to-morrow for Tampa.

ARMY REORGANIZATION BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The military affairs committee of the house to-day completed consideration of the army reorganization bill and ordered a favorable report upon it. As agreed upon only a few changes were made. The section authorizing the President to recruit the skeleton regiments "in time of war," was changed so as to make it more specific, limiting such authorization to a time of actual hostilities, after a declaration of war had been made. An additional section was added as a precaution providing that nothing in the act should be construed as an authorization to increase the enlisted force of the army in time of peace.

Section 5, empowering the President to authorize each regiment to draft its recruits from such state or states as he may designate, was amended so as to provide that each state should be entitled to furnish its quota before recruits should be drawn from designated states.

Chairman Hull, of the military affairs committee, will secure action upon the bill at the earliest possible moment. It may require a special rule to get the bill before the house.

NEW NAVAL VESSELS PROVIDED FOR.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The naval appropriation bill, as reported to the house to-day, carries a total of \$35,633,058, an increase over last year of \$2,764,432, and over the current estimates of \$2,514,824.
For the increase of the navy the bill allows to be constructed by contract three sea-going coast line battleships designed to carry the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance, displacement, 11,000 tons, with the highest practicable speed for their class, to cost, exclusive of armament, not exceeding \$3,000,000 each, one to be named the Maine; six torpedo boats, 150 tons displacement, and six torpedo boat destroyers, about 350 tons displacement, to cost not exceeding \$2,340,000; and one gunboat to take the place of the U. S. S. Michigan, to cost exclusive of armament not over \$300,000, to be built on the great lakes. One of these sea-going battleships is to be built on the Pacific coast. The contracts for the construction of all these vessels are to be made within sixty days of the enactment of the bill.

READY TO SAIL.

LONDON, March 22.—The New Orleans (formerly the Amazonas) and the San Francisco, completed coaling to-day. The latter cruiser will await orders. The former will go at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning to Halphaven to ship powder and ammunition previously ordered by Brazil and will then await orders.

TO DRILL ARTILLERY REGIMENTS.

CHICAGO, March 22.—Nine troops of Light Battery A, Second Artillery United States Army, will leave Fort Sheridan to-morrow for Fort Slocum, New York, where they will enter the new artillery regiments, the Sixth and Seventh, to assist in the work of drilling and organizing the recruits. They will be given non-commissioned officers in the new regiments. This is the second squadron of Fort Sheridan men ordered to seaboard garrisons within two weeks, twenty-one soldiers having been sent with a similar purpose about a fortnight ago.

BECAUSE HE DIDN'T KNOW.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Senator Polo, the Spanish minister, said to-day that the report from Madrid that he had notified his government that the American naval court of inquiry's report was that the explosion was of external origin was an error. He added that he had not notified his government what the report would be for the reason that he did not know, and did not send cablegrams to his government except where he knew what were the facts, and in this case he was not in possession of the facts.

CONFERRED WITH THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Senators Allison and Gorman saw the President to-day by appointment. The President desired to consult them regarding the present Cuban situation as he has been consulting others. Little could be learned concerning the nature of the conference, but it is known that the President desires the views of leading men of both parties at this time on the situation, which is considered very critical. No official information as to the nature of the Maine report has been received, but it is believed that the assumption is that the board will say it was an outside explosion without fixing any responsibility.

TRYING TO BUNKER UNCLE SAM.

LONDON, March 22.—The return of the United States ambassador Colonel John Hay, to London from Egypt has brought to the embassy a swarm of war munition men and brokers who have options upon war ships. Some of them renew efforts to sell to the United

States obsolete craft at preposterous prices. Two brokers offered one ship at prices \$750,000 apart.

An official said: "The United States will not be frightened into paying exorbitant prices or into buying second-rate ships and guns at any price." This disposition proves disappointing to war material firms, some of which have tried to profit by the government's need to extort fictitious prices.

PROBABLE ACTION

Of the President in regard to the Cuban Situation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22.—Speaking of the Cuban situation, the Post to-morrow will say:
"Having formulated no plan to solve the problem and being anxious to gain all the time possible the President will not immediately make any suggestion to Congress. The message which he will send in on Monday will treat alone of the Maine, and Congress will be informed that the President will, at a later date, communicate with it on the Cuban situation. The report on the Maine and the accompanying papers will, therefore, be at once referred in both houses to the committee on foreign affairs and then Congress will anxiously and patiently await the President's next recommendation.
"If the policy of relief be finally agreed upon an appropriation will undoubtedly be made for the purchase of supplies and the work of wholesale supply will be entered upon. If Spain should regard this act as a hostile one, the responsibility for provoking war would be upon her. The President still hopes that in the meantime something may occur to diminish the likelihood of opposition; or, if the programme is inaugurated that Spain will accept the action of the United States in a friendly spirit."

TWIN BATTLESHIPS

To be Launched at Newport News Yards To-morrow Morning.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—President O'Connell, of the Newport News Ship Building Company, had a talk to-day with Secretary Long on the plans for the launching of the new battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky, at Newport News next Thursday. Owing to the condition of affairs here Mr. Long is not likely to attend the launching, as Thursday is the day on which the report of the court of inquiry may be received. For the same reason many of the naval chiefs who had hoped to see these fine ships glide into the water will be unable to attend the launching.

A distinguished party is to leave here to-morrow night, however, including members of the senate and house naval committees and such naval officials as are not pressed by the present emergency conditions. Mr. O'Connell stated that the Kearsarge would leave the yards at 10 a. m., Thursday morning, and the Kentucky one hour later. Mrs. Herbert Winslow, wife of Lieutenant Commander Winslow, and Miss Christine Bradley, daughter of Governor Bradley, the two ladies who will christen the Kearsarge and Kentucky, respectively, will reach Newport News to-morrow. After the launching an hour will be given to inspecting the ship yard, including the work on the big battleship Illinois and later a collation will be served. Mr. O'Connell speaks in the highest terms of the two new battleships, and says that on a pinch they could be made ready for service within eight months and probably less.

WILL SEE THE KENTUCKY LAUNCHED.

FRANKFORT, Ky., March 22.—Governor Bradley, his uniformed staff and the state officials who had not gone ahead, and many prominent persons left here in the private cars that were attached to the first section of the special C. & O. train that left Louisville at 2 o'clock this afternoon for the battleship launching at Newport News. They with others taken on at Lexington completed the nearly 1,000 Kentuckians who make up the mammoth double excursion party. Both sections of the train left here at 4 o'clock with banners flying, bands playing and cheering from both the passengers and the many spectators at the station. The banquet, reception, etc., will begin as soon as the Kentuckians reach Old Point Comfort to-morrow afternoon.

CHAPLAIN'S MORTUARY REPORT.

HAVANA, March 22.—Chaplain Childwick has completed his mortuary report, which shows that 257 men and two officers perished in the catastrophe, six succumbed to their injuries while lying in the San Ambro hospital here, one died on the Spanish transport Colon; 171 bodies have been recovered from the wreck, of which sixty-one have been identified, 161 have been buried in Colón cemetery and eleven at Key West. This is the official report made public after careful correction for the first time.

WILL NOT CHANGE HIS PLANS.

LEXINGTON, Ky., March 22.—Mrs. Margaret Scott, sister of Governor Bradley, died at Somerset. The governor will not change his plans for attending the launching of the battleship Kentucky Thursday.

WORK OF THE DIVERS.

HAVANA, March 22.—The wrecking contract divers have been busy on the Maine to-day, raising two six-inch guns from the after cabin, with great difficulty and getting ammunition from the magazines aft.

BANKS DECEASED

Through the Suspected Collusion of Government Clerks.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22.—Information has reached the government, through a number of banks at St. Paul, Minn., that during the past year and more these and other nearby banks have been made the victims of colossal frauds through the suspected collusion of government clerks connected with the commission, having in charge the improvements on the Upper Mississippi river.
Full details of the affair have not yet reached the government, but the statements submitted by the banks indicate that \$300,000 or more has been procured from them through fraudulent time checks for services never performed. Copies of some of these time checks are said to be signed by J. H. Southall, chief clerk of the United States engineers office at St. Paul, and are dated at different times during the year 1897. Others, it is understood, are dated in 1898. How the banks came to be imposed upon to the extent indicated, and why the checks have been withheld until this time, cannot be even conjectured. It is understood that the banks will make a claim for reimbursement, but the law is said here to be clearly against this contention. The government will begin a searching investigation at once into the whole matter.

BEAVER VALLEY

In a Very Bad Plight From the High Water.

HAS RAINED SINCE SATURDAY

Causing Tremendous Landslides and Blocking Railway Traffic—People are in a State of Terror, and Many Fear that the Big Hills That Surround the Towns of the Valley Will Come Down Upon Them—The Waters Rising at the Rate of Six Inches an Hour—Disastrous Floods in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

BEAVER FALLS, Pa., March 22.—The river at this place at midnight is very high and is rising at the rate of six inches an hour. Fallston, which lies low, is in great danger and will be flooded by morning unless the river stops very suddenly, for it is thought by morning it will have overflowed its banks. Rain is coming down heavily at midnight and it has been raining here practically without a stop since last Saturday.

There was a tremendous landslide on the Erie & Pittsburgh across the river this evening. It is completely blocked and no trains have been run this evening and may not before morning. The Pittsburgh & Lake Erie railroad also had a big landslide between this city and Fallston this evening. It is reported that no train on that line can get through to-night. People are in a state of terror and many fear that the big hills that surround the towns of this whole valley will come down upon them. People who live at the foot of the hills are preparing to move out at any time at the slightest indications of a slide, and in all sections of the town people are sitting up and ready to leave on the shortest possible notice.
Walnut run, at the western part of town, is to-night over its banks and the big consolidated steel mills are partially under water. Walnut run is still rising rapidly at a late hour and the whole upper end of town is under two or three feet of water and before morning it will be worse. There will be little sleep in this town and perhaps the whole valley to-night, and the worst is feared.

FLOODS IN INDIANA.

PORTLAND, Ind., March 22.—The terrific rains have caused an unprecedented rise in the Salamonie river and it is out of its banks, submerging hundreds of acres of farming land. The river is rising rapidly every hour. The north and west portions of this place are flooded and Meridian street, almost in the heart of the town, is a raging current. The water is expected to come much higher. Great damage has already been done.

AND STILL RAINING.

CARLISVILLE, Ills., March 22.—The heaviest rain storm in this vicinity has been falling for seventy-two hours, resulting in the loss of thousands of dollars to farm districts and railroads. The Litchfield, Corrollton & Western railway will not be able to run trains for some time on account of numerous washouts and destroyed bridges. Nearly all the bridges leading to the city are gone. As it is still raining grave fears are entertained for the water company's pumping station here.

RAILROADS SUFFER.

SPRINGFIELD, Ills., March 22.—The heavy rains of the past few days have flooded the creeks and rivers of Central Illinois until many of them extend for miles in width across the lowlands. Several washouts were discovered to-day on different railroads. Trains on the Chicago & Peoria & St. Louis and Bluff line between here and St. Louis came over the Chicago & Alton. Another washout north on the St. Louis & Peoria has stopped traffic on that road between here and Peoria.

WRECKED FOURTEEN HOUSES.

KANSAS CITY, March 22.—A storm to-day wrecked fourteen houses and destroyed many smaller buildings at Blue Mills, Mo., a little village near the summit of a hill about ten miles north of Independence on the Missouri Pacific road to-day. The only house occupied, that of Martin Hugel, was carried a distance of 120 feet. Hugel was internally injured and may die. Neither Mrs. Hugel nor the children were injured. The property loss was nominal.

FRUIT CROP DAMAGED.

KANSAS CITY, March 22.—The most severe storm of the season is in progress in the southwest and west. Emporia, Kas., reports a fall of forty degrees in temperature since last night and Wichita, Florence and other Kansas points make like reports. Beatrice, Neb., reports a fall of 70 degrees in the past twelve hours. Vegetables have been ruined and it is believed that fruit crops have been seriously damaged.

OKAW OVERFLOWS ITS BANKS.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 22.—A special to the Republic from Vandallia, Ill., says: In consequence of the heavy rains the Okaw river and tributaries are spread over the entire Okaw bottoms. To-night the water lacks about twelve inches of reaching the high water mark of 1882 and is rising at the rate of an inch an hour. Families living in the bottoms are getting out in boats.

HIZZARD RAGING IN KANSAS.

EMPORIA, Kas., March 22.—A genuine blizzard prevailed to-day in this portion of Kansas, with no indications at noon of its letting up. The fruit crop it is claimed, has been badly damaged and in some sections will probably be destroyed. Early vegetables have been damaged.

THE WORST SINCE 1883.

MILLERSBURG, Ohio, March 22.—The worst floods since 1883 are now prevailing here. The Kilbuck river is rapidly rising and rain is still falling. People living in the low bottom lands are leaving their homes. No trains arrived here during the day, there being bad washouts on the Cleveland, Akron & Canton and the Baltimore & Ohio railroads north of here and they were not repaired so that trains could resume running until this evening.

SIDNEY, O., MARCH 22.—THE heavy rains have caused the Miami river to overflow its banks here. The river rose over a foot to-day and is still rising, many people living on its banks have commenced to move out of their homes.

DELAWARE IN A BAD PLIGHT.

DELAWARE, O., March 22.—The rain storm here to-night has proved to be serious and destructive. People re-

sliding near the river were compelled to move out in carts and boats because of the rising water. The covered bridge connecting central and east Delaware may be washed away before morning. The bursting of the water main to-night near the water company's plant cut off the city's water supply, causing the electric light plant to shut down, thus throwing the city in total darkness and stopping street car traffic. The condition is most alarming.

VISITING MASONS

From Pittsburgh Entertained Last Night by Bates Lodge No. 33, A. F. & A. M. The Work Exemplified.

Last night one hundred and thirty Master Masons, members of the several lodges of Pittsburgh and vicinity, visited Bates Lodge No. 33, A. F. & A. M. Masons, to witness the work of West Virginia Masons. They arrived in the city on a special on the Pan Handle about 7:30 p. m., and were escorted direct to the Masonic Temple.
The conferring of the Master Mason's degree upon a candidate under direction of H. B. Battelle, W. M., won high praise from the visiting brethren.
Speeches followed the conclusion of the work. Mr. George B. Moore, of the Consolidated Traction Company; A. J. Edwards, assistant district attorney; John W. Crawford, state senator; Isaac Hirsch, of the Pittsburgh Volksblatt; Edward Hope and A. J. Cratty, of the Chronicle-Telegraph; Morris Hearn, of the Bureau of Electric Light; and W. W. Murray, county commissioner, in short speeches expressed the great pleasure the visitors had experienced in witnessing West Virginia Masonry, after which coffee and sandwiches with relishes were dispensed by Caterer John C. Ziegenfelder. At midnight the visitors left for home.

A LIST OF THE VISITING BRETHREN IS AS FOLLOWS:

W. R. Leher, C. E. McLean, John Grey Davis, John P. Mook, George B. Mook, Thomas Stevens, James R. Redman, Harry C. Fehl, James B. Safford, Thomas C. Stevens, W. A. Balm, Will A. Ferry, Wesley G. Moore, Thomas G. McClure, Lorenzo S. Reardon, Albert G. Melburn, William J. McClelland, Charles A. Phillips, W. J. Berger, John W. Crawford, John G. Peters, of Pittsburgh; Henry J. Darber, Homestead; Ham M. Blackley, Ol. M. Minnemeyer, Hen W. Minnemeyer, George W. Richards, James Rayburn, Jr., Ralph W. Sample, J. M. Bowers, Joseph C. Porter, Stewart C. Galley, Robert J. Hardy, Frank O. Freise, J. G. Burford, A. J. Reumhiller, R. L. Adams, J. G. Burns, J. W. Brook, W. C. McKinley, George S. Wilcox, L. C. Kramer, D. H. Givin, Henry H. Miller, Morris W. Mead, John Campbell, Gast Doh. John Richards, Samuel Steele, James P. McElroy, T. C. Allison, John W. Miller, S. W. Crazie, Samuel B. Stewart, Milton B. Bailey, Walter L. Clark, Grant Smith, Harry B. Taylor, G. W. Bliss, John Hall, Jr., George G. Snider, Jacob Soffel, E. J. Torrence, Isaac R. Tamm, George M. Schmidt, Harry A. Foreman, Hugh Turner, Edward Hope, W. W. Pope, George W. Layny, Robert R. Gaw, A. J. Edwards, Joseph Mitchell, W. A. Austin, H. B. Ingersoll, W. D. Finley, John V. Lytle, J. H. Stoughton, Ed. Barry, W. D. Kelly, John F. A. Ritch, Ed. A. Bauer, Louis T. Bauer, Steel E. Roberts, Aug. Dab, Henry Daub, J. H. Corbett, W. Coulter, Ben F. Gibbs, Jesse M. McGary, James B. Hamilton, Wm. H. Stouffer, Alfred Oldfield, James A. Greenawalt, W. A. Latimore, W. H. Barnes, Isaac E. Hirsch, Arthur E. M. Murray, Henry Herschberger, Reuben Reese, Mark N. Foster, A. D. Robb, Carlton H. Taylor, John L. S. Kelmor, W. A. Lee, George W. Webb, Wm. Slack, L. C. Stevenson, John M. Dunn, Wm. P. Lyman, Charles Webster, Atchison Lodge, Massachusetts; H. W. Bowen, Thomas Evans, Ed. C. Hall, John H. Evans, Thomas Llewellyn, John E. Black, Thomas McClure, W. J. McClure, Matthew Mshrdiauuu, W. J. McClure, Wm. Brand, Joseph S. Seamon, Jr., Charles W. Robb, Thomas B. Brackley, John W. Edwards, J. Howard Speer, John A. Hibbard, James L. Courting, Newark, N. J.; Edwin C. Kron, Ohio; Alfred R. Cratty.

DISASTROUS FIRE

At Berkeley Springs—The Hotel Totally Destroyed—Loss \$30,000, with Over \$15,000 Insurance.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.
BERKELEY SPRINGS, W. Va., March 22.—The most disastrous fire that ever occurred in this county was the burning of the Berkeley Springs hotel of this place, this morning, causing a loss of about \$30,000, with nearly \$15,000 insurance.

About 1:30 a. m. the fire was first noticed, and the structure being of inflammable material, was quickly consumed. Most of the furniture and linen, however, was saved. How the fire started is a mystery, and it was first seen in the second story over the ball room, some distance from any flue. It may have been the work of an incendiary.

The main part of the hotel was four stories, with two long wings, one two and three stories, and was erected in 1846, '47 and '48 by Colonel Strother. Messrs. Chas. P. Jack and A. B. Unger have been the owners and proprietors for the past five years. All of the adjoining cottages were saved.

Elected Chairman.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.
CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 22.—The congressional committee of the Third district met here to-day and elected John Cooper, of McDowell county, chairman, vice A. H. Winchester, who is traveling in South America. The committee also apportioned the delegates of the various counties upon the basis of the vote for President in 1896. The time and place for the assembling of the convention will be fixed at the next session, which will be held May 5th.

Presidential Appointments.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22.—Among the postmasters appointed by the President to-day was E. W. Martin, of Buckhannon. The senate confirmed the nomination of A. H. Fleming, to be postmaster at Fairmont.

Late Register Bruce's Successor.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—The President to-day announced to members of the Iowa congressional delegation that he had decided to appoint Judson Lyons, the negro Republican national committeeman from Georgia, to be register of the treasury to succeed the late B. K. Bruce.

Wages Voluntarily Raised.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 22.—A voluntary advance of 10 per cent in the wages of the 400 employees at the Carnegie furnaces has been ordered to take effect on April 1. The Carnegie Steel Company has purchased these furnaces but will not take control until May 1. The new wages were made to conform with the rate paid at the Edgar Thomson furnaces at Braddock.

OCEAN TRAGEDY

Indirectly Attributed to Alaskan Gold Excitement, FORTY PEOPLE ARE DROWNED

By the Capsizing of the Bark Helen W. Almy Which Sailed from San Francisco Last Sunday With Gold Seekers Bound for Copper River Point—Wreck Sighted Ten Miles from Shore—It is Supposed She was Struck by a Sudden Squall and That She "Turned Turtle."

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22.—Upon the arrival of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's steamer Santa Rosa from San Diego to-day the news was received of another horrible accident, indirectly attributed to the Alaskan gold excitement, which is believed to have cost the lives of forty passengers and sailors.
Captain Alexander, of the Santa Rosa, reported that early this morning, while nine miles off Point Bonita, at the mouth of the Golden Gate, he sighted a derelict, bottom up. The tug Sea Witch was immediately dispatched to the point indicated, and found the derelict to be the bark Helen W. Almy, Captain Hogan, which sailed here for Copper River points with twenty-seven passengers and a crew of thirteen on Sunday last.

The bark lay upon her starboard side, with her stern low down in the water, her deck hamper badly wrecked, and several planks of her hull washed loose by the seas which broke over her. While there were no signs of boats among the wreckage, it is not believed that her passengers and crew escaped by putting off from the vessel in them, as there has been very heavy seas for several days past. Furthermore, no word has been received from the survivors, if any exist, although the derelict was sighted within ten miles of the shore, and fully forty-eight hours have passed since the wreck occurred.
According to the tug boat men, there was a pretty stiff breeze when the Almy sailed out of Golden Gate on Sunday last, and by noon it was blowing a gale. She left here under full canvas, and the vessel was in good condition for an offing. There was a heavy sea running, and it is supposed that some time during the night she was struck by a squall and turned turtle.

The following is a list of her passengers: A. Anderson, David Anderson, A. B. Beach, G. D. Cinnotto, Theodore Crenner, E. P. Currier, Oscar D. Kersander, Fred Franks, Julius Gill, J. T. Gotsky, Gus Journer, M. R. Lenley, Nord Leveck, William McCray, R. N. Nichols, James Ronalds, J. T. Robson, James B. Sagon, John Snell, C. B. Snedon, Charles R. Smallwood, John Vance, Adolph Waldi, John Walker, John Westwick, and an unknown man.

The Helen W. Almy was once a South Sea trader, and was quite famous for her many adventures among the reefs. The vessel was in good condition for an offing. There was a heavy sea running, and it is supposed that some time during the night she was struck by a squall and turned turtle.

England Denies It.

LONDON, March 22.—In the house of commons to-day Sir James Ferguson, conservative member for Northeast Manchester, questioned the government as to whether there was any truth in the accusations brought by the United States senate committee on foreign relations in the committee's Hawaiian report to the effect that Great Britain was plotting for the absorption of Hawaii.

Mr. Curzon, the parliamentary secretary for the foreign office, in reply, said he did not know whether the published statement of the accusations was authentic, but if such were the case, he added, there was no truth at all in the allegations made.

Relieved of his Command.

CHICAGO—March 22.—Colonel Marcus Kavanaugh has been relieved of the command of the Seventh regiment Illinois National Guard by Governor Tanner, for parading his troops on St. Patrick's Day. Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Moriarty has been placed in command. Colonel Kavanaugh said to-day that he had made application in regular form to General Wheeler of the brigade. It has been the custom of the Seventh regiment to parade on the Irish holiday whenever there was a public celebration.

The precedence was well established, said he, and the usual preliminaries were well observed.

Gladstone Returning Home.

BOURNEMOUTH, March 22.—Mr. Gladstone started for Hawarden to-day, in a royal salon carriage. He walked firmly from his carriage to the train, but was pale. The old statesman was greeted with frequent cries of "God bless you, sir," "God's richest blessings rest upon you."
Upon entering the train, Mr. Gladstone turned and said in a clear voice: "God bless you all, and this place and the land you love."
The distinguished traveler was loudly cheered as his train departed.

Ville De Rome Wrecked.

MARSEILLES, March 22.—The general Trans-Atlantic Company's mail steamer, Ville de Rome, has been wrecked off Port Mahon, Balearic Islands. The Ville de Rome had on board 117 passengers, including thirteen women. There was no loss of life, and the mails were saved.

The Chinese Loan.

BERLIN, March 22.—The Chinese loan was largely over-subscribed here to-day.

LONDON, March 23.—There was no rush here to subscribe for the Chinese loan and it is doubtful whether the amount will be covered.

Weather Forecast for To-Day.

For West Virginia, Wednesday, clearing and colder with a cold wave Wednesday night; southerly shifting to northwesterly winds.
For Western Pennsylvania, Wednesday, rain, clearing by afternoon, much colder by Wednesday night with a cold wave Thursday; brisk southerly shifting to northwesterly winds.
For Ohio, clearing Wednesday morning; much colder with a cold wave; winds shifting to brisk northwesterly.

Local Temperature.

The temperature yesterday as observed by C. Schmitt, druggist, corner Market and Fourteenth streets, was as follows:
7 a. m. 56 3 p. m. 74
9 a. m. 58 7 p. m. 73
12 m. 67 Weather—Changeless.